

Appl. No. : 09/389,720
Filed : September 3, 1999

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed July 13, 2004. Applicant has hereby amended Claims 20 and 60, canceled Claim 26 and added new Claim 81. Thus, Claims 20-24, 29, 30 and 59-81 are pending in this application of which Claims 62-80 have been allowed.

A listing is included herein above with the status of all claims and the text of all pending claims. The specific changes to the amended claims are shown by strikethrough for any deletions and underlining for any insertions.

CLAIMS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 20-24, 29 and 59-61 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,319,354 B1 to Farnsworth et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and the Examiner's characterization of the cited reference.

In this case, to advance prosecution, Applicant has amended independent Claim 20 and added new independent Claim 81.

Independent Claim 20 has been amended to include the limitation of dependent Claim 26 which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Claim 26 has been canceled.

Claim 60 has been amended to correct a typographical error. This amendment does not alter the scope of the claim.

Claims 21-24, 29, 30 and 59-61 depend from Claim 20, and each recites a unique combination of features not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 20-24, 29, 30 and 59-61 are in condition for allowance.

New independent Claim 81 is substantially the same as the prior version of dependent Claim 30, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable, rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 81 is in condition for allowance.

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DRAWINGS

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). More specifically, the Examiner stated that the teeth of Claim 60 should be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s).

Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to FIG. 4 which shows teeth 63. The teeth 63 are also described in the specification, for example, at page 9, lines 1 and 2.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the drawing objections.

FORM PTO-1449

In the last Office Action Response, filed on February 19, 2004, Applicant had included a copy of a form PTO-1449 signed by the Examiner on November 5, 2003 in which one reference was not initialed by the Examiner. The reference is JP 11-180291A. Applicant had requested the Examiner's consideration of the noted reference and return of an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 in the next communication to Applicant.

Since Applicant has not received this fully initialed form PTO-1449, enclosed herewith is another copy of the partially initialed form PTO-1449.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's consideration of the noted reference and return of an initialed copy of the subject PTO-1449 in the next communication to Applicant.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If further issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned such that any remaining issues may be promptly resolved. Also, please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 9/13/04

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